

A Word from the Pastor for September and Back to School...

Every August I find myself asking: Where did the summer go? It seems as though we were just celebrating Pentecost and now, September is upon us.

Each year, we go through another Gospel during our worship. This year we are in Luke. The first half of the lectionary year - from Advent to Ascension - is often called the "Season of Christ" and begs us to answer the question, "Who is Jesus?"

Then we move on to the second half - from Pentecost to Christ the King Sunday - "the Season of the Church" and addresses the follow-up question, "And what does it mean to follow Jesus?" It is the growing season of the church, or as I call it, the long, green season. The growing season - in nature and in church - comes to an end in November, when the harvest comes in. Then we repeat the whole thing over, beginning once again with Advent.

Each year we return for Rally Day, ready to jump back into the routine. After months of summer leisure, I have to say, I don't mind. I have always been a student at heart, so for me, September is a joy. There is something so exciting and reenergizing about coming back and starting again.

So, welcome back! So much is waiting to be experienced and learned, and I look forward to sharing those times with all of you!

Pastor V.

Sunday Church School Begins on Sunday, September 8th at 9am!

We'll meet in the sanctuary where we'll have our opening and meet our teachers and aides before heading to the Parish Hall. (Each class will have an assigned table in the Parish Hall to meet teachers and aides when our students are dismissed from church.)

Once you've met your teacher & the class has gathered, students will head to the classrooms.

Happening at all services the weekend of the 7th / 8th is our **Backpack Blessing!**

BRING your backpack, laptop bag or briefcase and have it blessed as we begin the new school year. We will be praying for and blessing students and educators, and at the 9am service on the 8th, installing our teachers and staff for the 2019-2020 Sunday school year.

You can help area children by donating a new backpack! Please bring it on the 8th to be blessed and we will add a bag tag so the student knows the backpack came from St. John's and is a symbol of our love and support for that student. Thank you! If you have any questions, please see or call Kathy Moody.

BIBLE BUDDIES: If you signed up to be a Bible Buddy please attend the 9am service on Sunday September 15th. You will be presenting your Buddy with their new Bible. Thank you!

Submitted by Kathy Moody

Bible Study with Pastor Valerie begins again on September 5. We meet the first three Thursdays of each month at 6 pm in the Fellowship Room. Come for one or all!

September 5: Deuteronomy 30: 15-20, Luke 14: 25-33

September 12: Exodus 32: 7-14, Luke 15: 1-10

September 19: Amos 8: 4-7, Luke 16: 1-13



Chicken BBQ on 9/8/19 after the Rally Day events. It will run from noon - 3pm and it benefits the next NATIONAL Youth Gathering. Dine in & take out available.

Sunday school youth get "1" \$5.00 discount. You would have received this discount voucher in the informational packet that was mailed out. You will need this slip for the discount.

The normal price is \$10 advance sale (until 9/1/19) and \$12 at the door.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY UPDATE

An updated version of St. John's Pictorial Directory is scheduled for fall 2019. This is an opportunity for individuals and families who have not had photos taken January 2017 or January 2018 to participate in this very important communication tool.

DATES: Friday, September 6th and
Saturday September 7th

TIMES: Friday 2:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Saturday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

WHO: Those who were part of the last directory
Those who would like an updated picture
Those who would like an intergenerational photo
New members (and prospective new members)
New staff members

HOW: Call the church office at 716-668-2152 and speak with Amy to schedule a photography session appointment. Online scheduling will soon be available on the St. John's website.

www.saintjohnsws.org

WHY: It makes learning about our church family easier for all. It is especially important that the contact information in the second section of the directory be accurate. Please check the current directory and call the church office (716-668-2152) if you notice an error in spelling, address, phone numbers or email addresses.

BENEFITS: A professional photography session, with no session fees. You (your family) will receive an 8X10 standard print photo from the proof of your choice and a 2019 Pictorial Directory.

QUESTIONS: Please call the church office at 716-866-2152 and speak with Amy or contact Nancy Kessler at 716-997-6012.

Women of the ELCA

It is time to get back to meeting mode again. Our September meeting will be on Tuesday, the 10th at 7PM in the fellowship room.

We will be planning the year so bring any ideas along. New faces are always welcome.

The meetings last a couple of hours and includes a little business, a devotion, a short program, refreshments, laughs and fellowship. Join us for all or any that sound especially interesting to you. We have plenty of room for you!

If you have any questions feel free to ask Connie Arnold, Nancy Weber, Barbara Kwiecinski, Marie Ramey, Sylvia Delaney, Sandy Haase, Danese Dick, Sandy Marzahn, or Leah Leipler.

Thought for the month:

What a world this would be if we could forget our troubles as easily as we forget our blessings.

Submitted by Connie Arnold

Our fellowship hour is changing so a new crew will be working on the coffee and refreshments. Some faces will be familiar while new ones will be welcomed.

Many thanks to those who set up and cleaned up. It was always appreciated and we look forward to enjoying our fellowship time and refreshments in September as we welcome the Sunday School classes and their teachers back.



Birthday and Anniversary Form

If you would like your birthday or anniversary listed, fill out this form, bring or send to church and put in the bag on the counter or email the information to church and Amy will get it to the right person.

Name _____

Birthday (month and day only) _____

Name _____

Anniversary date including year _____



This is the QR code for the St John's website. If you're not familiar, a QR code will take a mobile device directly to our web site, just by taking a picture of it.

WHAT IS A THRIVENT ACTION TEAM?

Thrivent Action Teams are groups of volunteers who donate time and effort to help a charitable cause of their choice. As a **Thrivent** Financial benefit or associate member, **Thrivent** Financial will arm you with \$250 of seed money for your project.

If you want to learn more you can contact your Thrivent representative (Brian Makey) or talk to Mark Koeppl or Nancy Kessler.

The funds can be used to help pay for a Community dinner, a Youth event, an Outreach program and more.

You can learn more by checking out the web site below.

https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/files/CA_Conversation_Guide.pdf

Food Barrel for WS Food Pantry

Needed for September are soup and canned pasta (ravioli, spaghetti, etc.).

As always, paper products are useful as well.



HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY TO:

9/1 Phyllis Kerner
9/4 Linda Barrows
9/4 Thomas Kalinowski
9/5 Mary Printzenhoff
9/9 John Boldt
9/10 Linda I. Harris
9/11 Rob Germano
9/13 Janet Hender
9/14 Lowell Rothenberger
9/17 Sandra Noyes
9/20 Gino Napierala
9/21 Deborah Kerner
9/21 Caden Miller
9/22 Sadonna Wolf
9/24 Rick Lipka
9/24 Joey Molnar
9/25 Amanda Altman
9/27 Alan Kerner
9/30 Clark Schindler



HAPPY SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARY TO:

9/2/2000 Alan and Tracy Lumb
9/9/1967 Rick and Sharon Fredericks
9/11/1971 Charlie and Connie Arnold
9/20/1980 Alan and Deb Kerner
9/20/2016 Daniel and Suzanne Schindler
9/24/2007 Brian and Stacy Fredericks
9/25/1988 Brandon and Sandy Noyes
9/26/1992 Mark and Sue Koeppel
9/30/2011 Adam and Stacey Poole

Note from property:

In recent weeks, doors to the building have been left unlocked after hours. In some cases the door locks have been modified with the use of an allen wrench to hold the door lock in the open position.

Please, if you have a key to the building, it is your responsibility to see that the door you entered through is locked after leaving. In no case should a door lock be modified to remain in an open position.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Rick
Building & Property manager

LCLC Events

Adult Fall Retreat
September 20-22, 2019
Location: LCLC Retreat Center

Blacksmithing Day
October 19, 2019
Location: LCLC Pavilion

We look forward to seeing you at these upcoming events.

For more information call LCLC at 716-386-4125

Assisting Minister Schedule

	9 AM	10:45 AM
September 8	Jim Steiner	Karen Rothenberger
September 15	Pat Lipka	Adam Wolff
September 22	Dawn Corless	Caroline Rackl
September 29	Al Kerner	Evelyn Hicks

Altar Guild

It's September and that time of year, time to get back to our meeting schedules and fall routines. So we say, so-long summer!!!!

Our September meeting will be on the 15th at 9:30a.m. in the copy room Hostesses are Erma F. and Sharon T.

Caring for the Altar preparations in Sept. are Barbara K. and Sylvia D.

"God, are You really there?". The question is an all-too human cry for some assurance that God remains involved in the life He has created. And His answer? It's a resounding "YES". Remember He is with you 24/7. He has promised to be with you always, even to the end of time.

Submitted by Nancy Weber

News from the Pews

“To my friends at St. John's,
Thank you for again this year supporting me in the Ride for Roswell. As many of you know, I ride in memory of my high school buddy, Matt Kochalski, who passed away from lymphoma 11 years ago. This was my 10th ride. With your generous support I was able to raise \$1325.00 for Roswell. Thank you very much! I rode the 30 mile River Route this year along with my wife, Melissa. It was a good day for it weather wise. We both enjoyed the route. Thank you once again for your yearly, generous support!”

Sincerely,
Patrick Mudd

Baptisms-

Gabriella Denise Will 7/28/19
Carter James Winkler 6/29/19

Weddings-

Heather Thauer & Timothy Then 6/27/19

Funerals-

Roy Hunneshagen 7/19/19

Scholarship Award Winners for 2019

Matthew Brown
Sarah Ramsey
Rachel Storch

SAVE THE DATE:

October 5, 2019

6:00-9:00 PM

**Leonard Post #6251 VFW
2450 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga,
NY**

LCLC Meat Raffle

**Please join us for this very unique
and fun fundraiser for LCLC.**

Also Included:

Basket Raffles

Homemade Pie Sales

Specialty Items Silent Auction

**For more information call LCLC at 716-
386-4125**



ST. JOHN'S DINING OUT CLUB

We invite all who are interested to join us:

WHEN: THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 26 - 6:00 p.m.

WHERE: KODIAK JACK'S

MENU: \$ 12.95 & up entrees + appetizers, snacks, salads, wraps, burgers, sandwiches.

Thursday Prime Rib Special \$ 12.95

DIRECTIONS: 3481 Two Rod Rd, Marilla

Between Jamison Rd. & Rte. 20A

PLEASE CAR POOL AND MEET AT THE RESTAURANT.

RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE DUE TO THE SIZE OF OUR GROUP. PLEASE SIGN THE SHEET ON THE COUNTER IN THE FOYER AND INDICATE WHETHER YOU WILL DRIVE, RIDE WITH SOMEONE OR MEET US AT THE RESTAURANT.

RESTAURANT REVIEW:

My Tomato Pie: 17 of us dined in this Italian restaurant. They were very accommodating, lots of good comments on the food and a lot of foam went home. Always a good sign.

Dandelion's - 15 of us enjoyed this restaurant. The menu was limited with items we don't usually see but there were no complaints, nice salad bar and no rush. Yes, they do have dandelions on the menu!

How will we choose our next restaurant? We pass around a list of restaurants, everyone places an X under their choice and the restaurant with the most Xs is the one we go to next. Here is your chance to try new restaurants, make new friends and enjoy good company. All members of St. Johns, your family and friends are welcome to join us. Please call Carolly Huth, 826-0506, with questions, if you forget to sign up, need a ride or to cancel.

Monthly Community Dinner

Dinner is on 9/27/19 and is served 4pm—6:30pm or until we run out, whichever comes first.

This month we will be serving a Chicken & Rice bake with sides...

We will offer drinks and dessert with the meal.

The meal is provided for ANYONE in need of food, fellowship or fun... As always, the food, the seat and the smiles are FREE but good will offerings are always accepted.

PLEASE CONSIDER A GIFT FOR THE DECEMBER COMMUNITY DINNER!!!

Each year we do a giveaway for the Christmas time community dinner. We are asking for gifts in the amount of \$10 for this year's meal in December. It can be a gift card, a small tchotchke or anything else that can be given to either a male or female. These items can be given to Mark or Sue Koepfel any time before December 15th. The items should be unwrapped gifts.

Thank you for your consideration...
Mark Koepfel

Hands and Hearts Ministry

The members of the Hands and Hearts Knitting Ministry of St. John's Lutheran Church would like to extend an invitation to everyone to join our small but dedicated group. We knit and crochet Prayer Shawls for those in need of healing warmth and christening caps to welcome newly baptized infant members. Throughout the year we also make items of outerwear for donation to groups in the community that pass them along to their clients. We welcome everyone from those wishing to learn the craft to the expert. The first Wednesday of every month at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Room is our new meeting time. We have a small stock of tools to get new members started and look forward to welcoming you with a quiet evening of companionable conversation and needlework. If interested please contact Linda Wetzler (716)512-8106. Thank you.

Just a reminder that the recycling "rules" have changed a bit in West Seneca. Recycling will now be picked up every other week and while most everything we have previously recycled is the same, please note that ONLY NUMBERS 1 and 2 plastics can be recycled. Please make every effort to do this along with only other items that can be recycled since our containers fill up rapidly some weeks and having items in there that do not belong takes away from what we can properly recycle.

Items that can be recycled include: newspaper, office paper, phone books, paper bags, and junk mail. Also, paperboard, magazines and catalogs, cardboard and pizza boxes, jugs and bottles with small top openings(#1 and #2) only along with clear bottles and jars, aluminum cans, metal cookware and steel and tin cans.

Check out the list by the recycling bin in the kitchen for the list of what cannot be recycled. Thanks for doing your share to help out!

Fellowship Hour needs your help. It is so good to have so many share the time between worship services in the parish hall. This has posed a good problem to have. In order for the coffee hour clean up people to get to church on time, we need you to clean up your table space. Wipes are available or even your napkin will do as long as the table is cleaned up and ready for the next week.

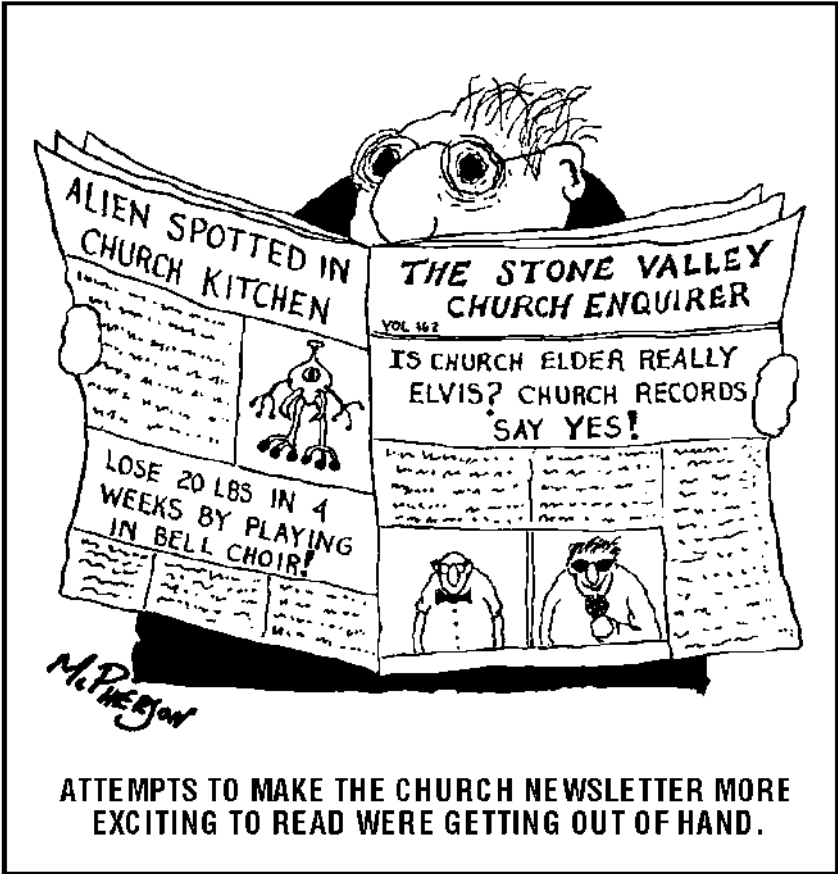
Your Vision for Mission team has begun work on a Human Sexuality course planned for this fall. Did you know 2019 marks the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the 2009 Statement of Human Sexuality by ELCA? We are planning on celebrating the anniversary with this course and more activities in the future. If you have ideas for your VFM (long range planning) team, please let us know. We focus on the future - 2-5 years out. Have a great summer!

The chili dinner is almost here (11/10/19) and we still have TRAVEL RAFFLE tickets available. The drawing will take place at the end of the night. The prize is a \$2000 AAA travel credit AND a \$500 Southwest gift card. Tickets are ONLY \$15 each and can be purchased from Mark Koepfel, at the Federal Meats in Southgate plaza or at Robertson & Bach Jewelers at 959 Union Rd. Tickets are limited so you have better odds of winning.

Mark can be reached at **(716)440-8173** if you have any questions...

In addition, we are always looking for donations for the auction the day of the **Chili Dinner...**

Anyone that wants to help at the event is more than welcome to volunteer as well. Just let Mark know...



WANTED: coupons from The Buffalo News Sunday paper. These coupons are mailed to Fort Bragg where our military personnel and their families can use them at their PX up to six months after the expiration date. Just drop them in the box on the counter in the Narthex and Sandy Stango will take it from there. Another way to support our troops and their families. Thanks, Sandy Stango

Ladies Aid

It was a bittersweet picnic this year at the Haase's. We had the usual wonderful time with great fellowship and delicious food but we had to bid goodbye to our longtime friend, Pearl Wachadlo, as she has now left us for warmer weather. She is in good hands with her niece and we wish her well. We will look forward to keeping in touch.

Watch the Crossbeam for our next meeting date.

Remember, The art of living a pleasant life is constantly adjusting to circumstances.

Submitted by Connie Arnold

Crossbeam Deadline

Articles for the **October** issue of the Crossbeam are due by **September 1st**. Please e-mail your articles to Sue Koeppel (sekoeppe@gmail.com) or leave them in the Crossbeam mailbox outside of the church office. Electronic articles are preferred, if at all possible.

INDEX

Assisting Ministers	10
Altar Guild	10
A Word from Pastor Valerie	1
Bible Study	3
Birthdays & Anniversaries	6, 8
Community Dinner	14
Dining Out Club	13
Food Pantry	7
Greeters	See insert
Ladies Aid	19
News from the Pews	11
Pastor Roger's Report	See insert
Sunday Church School	2
Ushers	See insert
Vision for Mission	17
WELCA	5